
Circulation Per Capita - SFY 2004

Circulation Per Capita relates the number of items a library circulates to the population served. It can be thought of as representing the average number of items checked out in a year by a member of the community. Circulation Per Capita is calculated by dividing the library's total annual circulation by the service area population.

Factors that Influence the Measure

- Fluctuation in the size of the service area population
- Increase or decrease in the number of items circulated annually
- Library circulation or acquisitions policies, loan period, fines
- Special programs--prizes, reading programs, etc.
- Community awareness of library service
- Library hours of service
- Number of library users
- Age, condition, and size of the library's collection
- Physical arrangement and convenience of library facilities

Interpretation and Use

Circulation Per Capita is another measure of the community's use of the library. A high score on this measure indicates heavy use of the library's circulating materials. A low score may indicate several things. For example:

1. The library's collection may not meet community needs or interests;
2. Community residents may be unaware of the library's resources;
3. The library may have an extensive collection of non-circulating materials.

